

**Land near Jangada
Bretforton
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Walters Development Ltd


CA Project: 5187
CA Report: 15021
WSM Event Number: WSM66247

January 2015

Land near Jangada
Bretforton
Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5187
CA Report: 15021

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date	23 January 2015
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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	3
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	5
<i>Methodology</i>	5
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	6
3. DISCUSSION.....	8
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	9
5. REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	10
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	11
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	12

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Trench 1: sections and photographs (1:20)

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land near Jangada
Location:	Bretforton, Worcestershire
NGR:	SP 0915 4405
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	8-9 January 2015
Planning Reference:	W/14/00716/OU
HER no:	WSM66247
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Worcester County Museum
Site Code:	JAN 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2015 at land near Jangada, Bretforton, Worcestershire. Two trenches were excavated.

A series of re-cut ditches, as well as evidence for a further broadly parallel ditch were identified. Neither corresponded to known ditches illustrated on 18th or 19th century map sources, but their orientation was the same as boundaries illustrated on these imprints. Limited quantities of post-medieval pottery were recovered from these features alongside a probable residual fragment of Roman pottery. Evidence of agricultural activity (ridge and furrow) was also identified, also along the same orientation.

No further features or deposits were identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Walters Development Ltd on land near Jangada, Bretforton, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SP 0915 4405; Fig. 1). Planning permission for residential development and associated infrastructure was granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC; planning ref: W/14/00716/OU). Conditions 10 and 11 of the planning approval secured the completion of a programme of archaeological work. The programme of archaeological evaluation was based on the *Brief* issued by Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service (WHEAS), the archaeological advisor to WDC (WHEAS 2014).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Mr Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2010), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 740m² in extent, and comprises mainly open grassed land. The site is bounded to the southwest and northeast by existing properties, to the northwest by Shop Lane (B4035) and to the southeast by open ground. The site lies at approximately 42m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. Overlying superficial deposits are recorded as Head - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2015). Sand and gravel with occasional patches of clay was observed at the base of the evaluation trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site has not previously been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment. As such, the following archaeological background is a summary of

information obtained from a Historic Environment Record (HER) search of a c.500m radius around the site (hereafter the study area), alongside pertinent publically available information.

- 1.6 No prehistoric finds or features are recorded within the site or the study area, although the geological head deposits throughout much of the study area have potential for Palaeolithic activity.
- 1.7 Roman evidence at the eastern extent of Bretforton comprises both occupation (identified during a pre-World War II excavation (WSM37533) and also cropmarks (WSM30162)) and isolated artefacts (Severn Valley ware: WSM30162). The projected line of a Roman road follows New Street c.60m north of the site, and the archaeological evidence tends to lie near to this. As mapped by the HER, the road starts at the southern edge of the River Avon (c. 6km north of the site). From here it runs south-west along Cleve Hill, before turning south-east through South Littleton and Bretforton to join Ryknild Street at Weston-sub-Edge, c. 4.5km south-east of the site (Margary 1973).
- 1.8 The site is located within the historic parishes of Bretforton and Badsey. Bretforton Grange c.150m to the west of the site, was one of a number of estates owned by Evesham Abbey in the early medieval and medieval periods. It was one of 12 manors reportedly given to the Abbey by Kendred, King of Mercia, and Offa, King of Essex, in the 8th century. The estate appears to have remained in the ownership of Evesham Abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries at the end of the medieval period (VCH 1906, 360).
- 1.9 Artefactual evidence from both the medieval and post medieval periods within the study area is limited: a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered during archaeological evaluation (WSM47403) and low quantities of post medieval pottery are reported (i.e. WSM35080), both at the northwest extent of Bretforton. Lidar imagery indicates that ridge and furrow survives to the south of Back Lane (c.150m to the south of the site), and it is also present to a lesser extent in other parts of the search area (for example HWR2833 to the north of Bretforton). The site lies away from the main area of 19th century expansion, noted to be to the north-west of the site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable the WDC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches, each measuring 20m in length and 2m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012). The *Brief* issued by Mr Glyde required a test pit (measuring 1m by 1m) to be hand excavated from the side of one of the trenches to recover finds from the topsoil and/or subsoil. Following discussions between Mr Glyde and CA, it was agreed that the test pit would be hand adjacent to of Trench 1 (Fig. 2).
- 1.12 The trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013). Due to the depth and similarity of the features identified during the course of the evaluation no features within Trench 2 were subject to hand excavation, with the agreement of Mr Glyde.
- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).

- 1.14 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate within each of the trenches, typically 0.6m below present ground level, comprised sand and gravel with occasional patches of clay. This was overlain by subsoil (typically 0.32m to 0.4m in thickness) which was in turn overlain by modern topsoil and turf (typically 0.28m to 0.35m in thickness). Furrows were identified in both trenches beneath the subsoil (as illustrated on Fig. 2). These were hand excavated to confirm their origin, but not recorded.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 A series of intercutting ditches, all broadly aligned northeast-southwest were identified. The earliest ditch 103 contained a single undated fill, 104, which was substantially truncated to the north-west by ditch 105. Ditch 105 had an irregular profile and contained three distinct fills: 106, 107 and 108. Fill 107 contained sherds of post-medieval pottery, CBM fragments and small quantities of animal bone.
- 2.4 Ditch 105 was cut by ditch 109 which had a moderately sloping south-eastern side and a concave base. It contained a single undated fill, 110. Ditch 109 was cut along its north-western edge by ditch, 111 which cut the subsoil, 101. It had an irregular profile with moderately sloping sides and contained a single undated fill, 112. The final ditch in the sequence, ditch 113, was cut by ditch 111.
- 2.5 Ditch 113 cut the subsoil, 101, had a 'U'-shaped profile and contained three distinct fills: 114, 115 and 116. A number of post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered from fill 115.

- 2.6 Ditch 117 was identified approximately 2m to the south-east. It had a stepped side to the south-east, a moderately sloping side to the north-west and a concave base. It contained a single fill, 118, from which a fragment of Roman pottery was recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

- 2.7 North-east/south-west aligned ditch 205 was identified towards the centre of the trench. Due to the characteristics of its fill 208, coupled with its alignment and location of this ditch within the trench, it is likely to represent a continuation of ditch 117 excavated in Trench 1.

- 2.8 North-east/south-west aligned ditch 203 was partially exposed towards the north-western end of the trench. Due to the characteristics of its fill 204, coupled alignment and location of this ditch within the trench it is likely to represent a continuation of ditch 113 excavated in Trench 1.

The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 2.9 Finds recovered from during the evaluation include pottery, ceramic building material and clay tobacco pipe. Where possible, codings for Roman and medieval/post-medieval pottery fabrics, given in the text in parenthesis, correspond to the Worcestershire pottery type series codes as defined by Worcester County Council's online ceramics database.

Pottery: Roman

- 2.10 An unfeatured bodysherd of (oxidised) Severn Valley ware (Fabric 12) was recovered from fill 118 of ditch 117. This pottery type is commonly found in the Worcestershire area and is broadly dateable to the Roman period.

Medieval/post-medieval

- 2.11 A single bodysherd of Midlands Purple (Fabric 108) was recovered from topsoil 100. Jars and cups in this ware type were manufactured at sites across the midlands during the late 14th to 18th centuries.
- 2.12 Fill 107 of ditch 105 produced an unfeatured bodysherd in an unglazed earthenware fabric, of mid 16th to 18th century date, and a bodysherd of Bristol/Staffordshire black-glazed earthenware, which is dateable to the 18th to 19th centuries.

- 2.13 A bodysherd of Bristol/Staffordshire mottled brown-glazed earthenware was recorded in fill 115 of ditch 113. This type of pottery was produced at Bristol, Staffordshire and other centres, and is found in Worcestershire dating to the late 17th to 18th centuries.

Post-medieval/modern

- 2.14 Two scraps of transfer-printed refined whiteware, dateable to the late 18th to 19th centuries, were recovered from topsoil 100.

Ceramic building material

- 2.15 Fill 107 of ditch 105 produced three brick fragments of post-medieval date.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 2.16 A fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, which dates to the late 16th to late 19th centuries, was recorded in topsoil 100.

Faunal remains

- 2.17 A single fragment of rib (weighing 5g) was recovered from fill 107 of ditch 105. This could only be identified as being from a sheep-sized mammal.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Neither the Bretforton Inclosure Plan of 1770 or 1891 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map depict a field boundary in the location of the ditches identified in both trenches. However, both ditch 103, 105, 109, 111 and 113/203 and 117/205 follow a consistent alignment to field boundaries illustrated on both the Inclosure Plan and OS imprint.
- 3.2 The series of recut ditches (103, 105, 109, 111 and 113) appear to be post-medieval in date though with 18/19th century pottery being recovered from fill 107 of the second earliest ditch 105. As illustrated by earlier pottery being recovered from a stratigraphically later feature, parts of the finds assemblage are likely to be residual. In addition the fragments were of both limited size and number, limiting the extent to which firm interpretations can be drawn. The intercutting ditches (103, 105, 109, 111 and 113) potentially reflect a rapidly silting environment. The single, small fragment of Roman pottery from ditch 117 is probably residual.

- 3.3 When compared against the results of the HER search, the recorded archaeological features are consistent with expectations. The main area of medieval activity lies to the east, and the main area of post-medieval activity lies towards the northwest. As such, an interpretation as a minor local boundary is the most likely.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Chris Watts. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
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Margary, D. 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*

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Worcester County Council online ceramic database, <http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/> (accessed 16 January 2015).



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey silt clay	>20	1.8	0.28	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sand silt with occasional small, rounded pebbles throughout	>20	1.8	0.32	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow orange sand and gravel with occasional patches of yellow grey clay	>20	1.8	>0.5	
1	103	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	0.49	0.44	
1	104	Fill	103	Fill	Single fill of ditch 103	>1.8	0.49	0.44	
1	105	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	1.84	0.64	
1	106	Fill	105	Fill	1 st fill of ditch 105	>1.8	1.84	0.21	
1	107	Fill	105	Fill	2 nd fill of ditch 105	>1.8	1.66	0.3	
1	108	Fill	105	Fill	3 rd fill of ditch 105	>1.8	1.51	0.3	
1	109	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	0.87	0.48	
1	110	Fill	109	Fill	Single fill of ditch 109	>1.8	0.87	0.48	
1	111	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	2.05	0.49	
1	112	Fill	111	Fill	Single fill of ditch 111	>1.8	2.05	0.49	
1	113	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	4.13	0.68	
1	114	Fill	113	Fill	1 st fill of ditch 113	>1.8	1.8	0.58	
1	115	Fill	113	Fill	2 nd fill of ditch 113	>1.8	2.7	0.37	
1	116	Fill	113	Fill	3 rd fill of ditch 113	>1.8	2.75	0.24	
1	117	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	3.16	0.62	
1	118	Fill	117	Fill	Single fill of ditch 117	>1.8	3.16	0.62	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey silt clay	>20	1.8	0.35	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sand silt with occasional small, rounded pebbles throughout	>20	1.8	0.4	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow orange sand and gravel with occasional patches of yellow grey clay	>20	1.8	>0.5	
2	203	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	3.2	N/A	
2	204	Fill	203	Fill	Single exposed fill of ditch 203	>1.8	3.2	N/A	
2	205	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW ditch	>1.8	>3.1	N/A	
2	206	Fill	205	Fill	Single exposed fill of ditch 205	>1.8	>3.1	N/A	

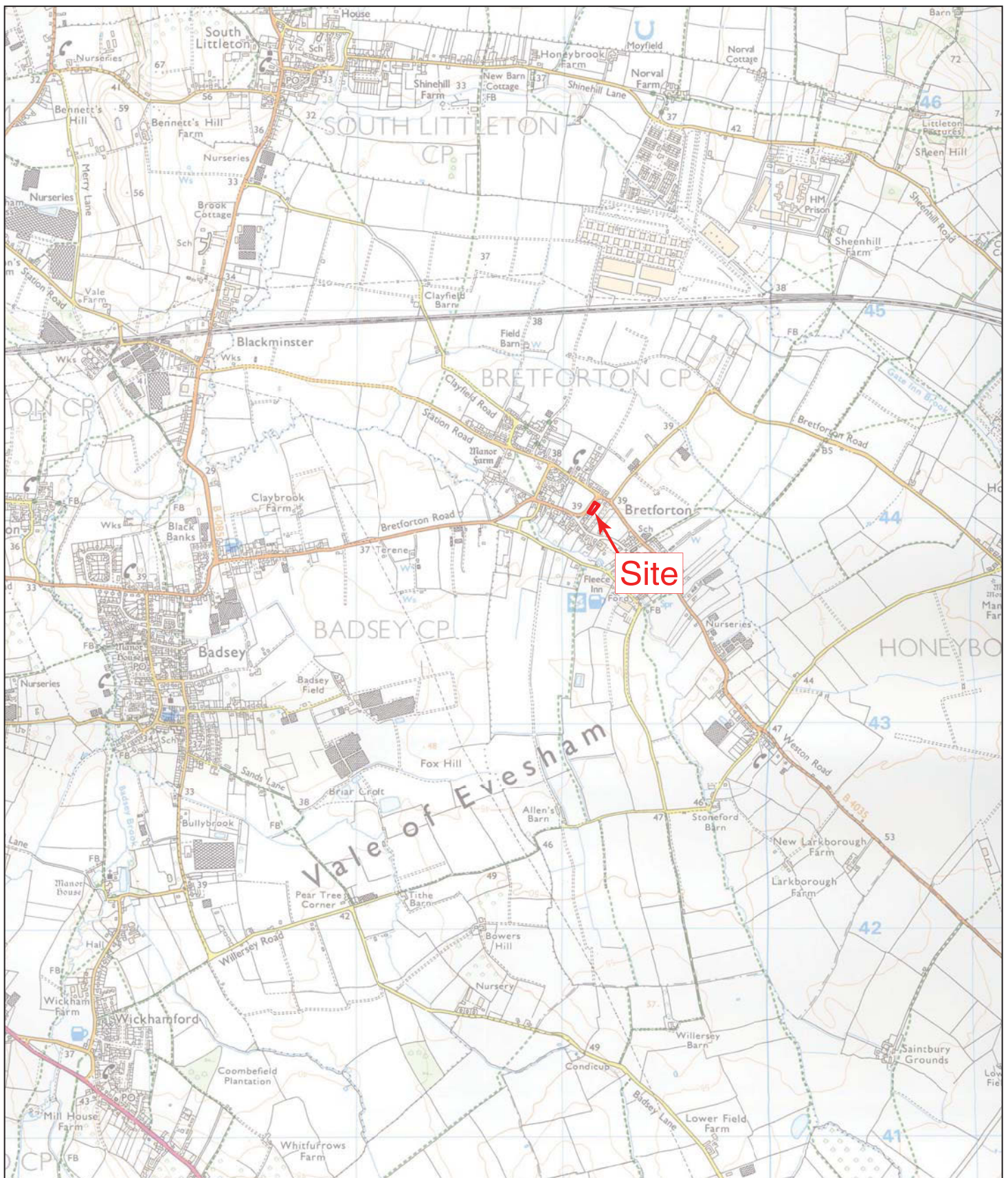
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
100	Medieval/post-medieval pottery: Midlands Purple	1	4	LC18-C19
	Post-medieval pottery: transfer-printed refined whiteware	2	<1	
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	1	
107	Post-medieval pottery: Bristol/Staffordshire black-glazed earthenware; unglazed earthenware	2	5	C18-C19
	Post-medieval ceramic building material: brick	3	90	
	Animal bone; sheep-size rib	1	5	
114	Slag	1	78	-
115	Post-medieval pottery: Staffordshire mottled brown-glazed earthenware	1	5	LC17-C18
118	Roman pottery: Severn Valley ware	1	6	RB

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land near Jangada, Bretforton, Worcestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2015 at land near Jangada, Bretforton, Worcestershire. Two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A ditch complex and ditch (both orientated southwest – northeast) were identified. Neither corresponded to known ditches illustrated on 18th or 19th century map sources, but their orientation was the same as illustrated boundaries on these imprints. Limited quantities of post medieval pottery were recovered alongside a likely residual fragment of Roman pottery from these features. Evidence of agricultural activity (ridge and furrow) was also identified, also along the same orientation.</p> <p>No further features or deposits were identified.</p>	
Project dates	8-9 January 2015	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land near Jangada, Bretforton, Worcestershire	
Study area	740m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SP 0915 4405	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	M .Glyde (WHEAS)	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Pottery, animal bone, slag, CBM
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, trench recording forms, photographic register, section drawings
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land near Jangada, Bretforton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 15021		



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PROJECT TITLE

Land near Jangada, Bretforton
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FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan







Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with
 the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller
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PROJECT NO. 5187 DATE 21/01/2015
 DRAWN BY LJH REVISION 01
 APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



-  site boundary
-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature
-  furrow



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land near Jangada, Bretforton
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features

DRAWN BY JBL/JH PROJECT NO. 5187
 CHECKED BY JB DATE 21/01/2015
 APPROVED BY IB SCALE@A3 1:500

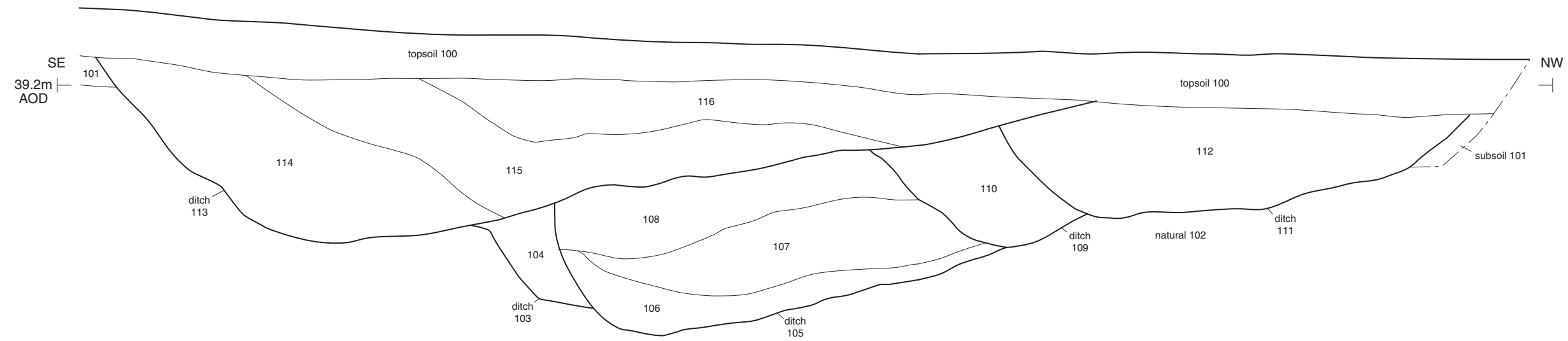
FIGURE NO.

2

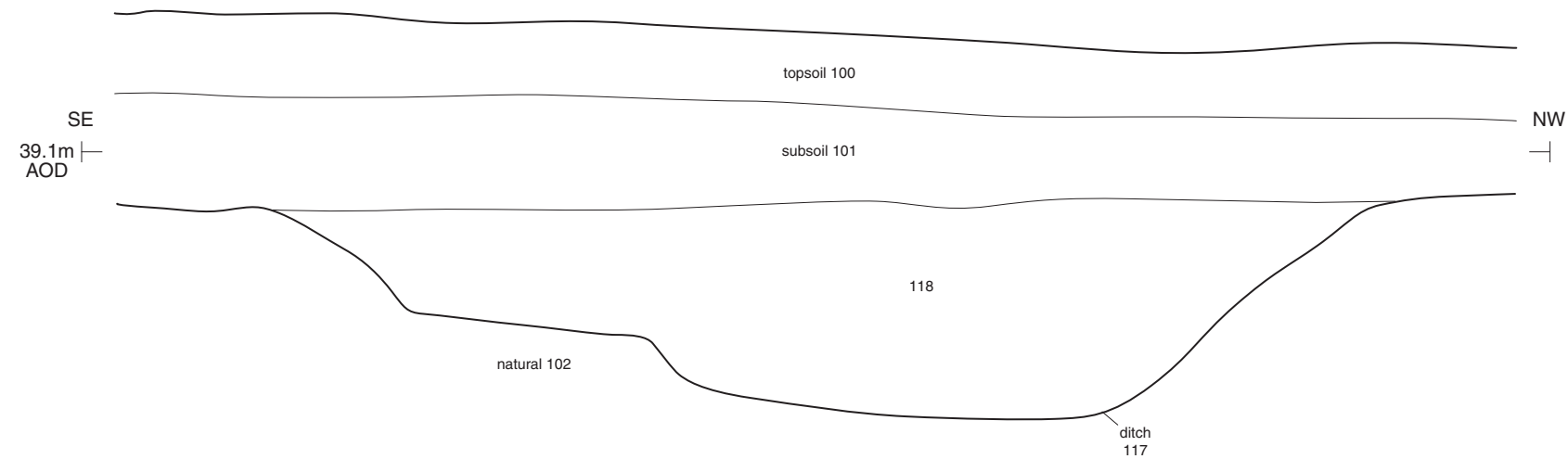


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Section AA



Section BB



Trench 1: Ditches 103, 105, 109, 111 and 113, looking south-east (scale 1m)



Trench 1: Ditch 117, looking south-west (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 1: sections and photographs